

## DELINQUENCY REASONABLE EFFORTS CHART

“The State must make reasonable efforts to maintain the family unit and prevent the unnecessary removal of a child from his/her home, as long as the child’s safety is assured; to effect the safe reunification of the child and family (if temporary out-of-home placement is necessary to ensure the immediate safety of the child); and to make and finalize alternate permanency plans in a timely manner when reunification is not appropriate or possible.” 45 C.F.R. sec. 1356.21 (b)

<b>FINDING THAT CONTINUATION IN THE HOME WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE WELFARE OF THE CHILD</b> (Best Interests)	<b>REASONABLE EFFORTS TO PREVENT PLACEMENT</b>	<b>REASONABLE EFFORTS TO REUNIFY FAMILY FOLLOWING PLACEMENT</b>	<b>REASONABLE EFFORTS TO FINALIZE A NEW PERMANENT HOME AFTER REUNIFICATION IS NO LONGER THE CASE GOAL</b> (reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan)
<p>Must be made in the first court order authorizing removal from the home.</p> <p>I.C. 31-37-8-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Efforts made to prevent removal / emergency situation that prevented reasonable efforts.</li> <li>- Bests interests of child.</li> <li>- Contrary to health / welfare of child?</li> </ul>	<p>Must be made within sixty (60) days following the removal of the child from the home. This finding can be made prior to the expiration of sixty (60) days.</p> <p>Specific findings in Dispositional Decree IC 31-37-18-9 and IC 31-37-19-1 (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Prevent removal</li> <li>* To reunite</li> </ul>	<p>See IC 31-37-20-2 (c)</p> <p>Reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan</p> <p>Suggest that reunification efforts also be listed if child out of the home.</p> <p>Include in review reports: See IC 31-37-21-1</p>	<p>See IC 31-37-20-2</p> <p>The first Review Hearing is therefore the proper time to make this finding.</p> <p>Include in review reports: See IC 31-37-21-1</p>
<p>*the date the child is considered to have entered placement is the date the court found that a child was abused or neglected or sixty (60) days following the child’s actual removal from home, whichever comes first.</p>			
<p>Removal includes physical removal from the home of a specified relative, a voluntary placement which leads to the physical removal, constructive removal in which the child is continued in the physical care of a relative but the state is granted custody and the relative is licensed as a foster parent.</p>			
	<p>At each critical juncture evidence should be given and findings made even if the child is NOT removed from the home. In such cases, the reasonable efforts to prevent removal should be listed.</p>	<p><i>Best Practice:</i></p> <p>Note: DCS is required to show in a CHINS case: I.C. 31-34-21-5.5 provides that if the child has been removed from the home the DCS is to make reasonable efforts to return the child safely to the home as soon as possible.</p>	<p>A finding of reasonable efforts to finalize permanency plan may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reasonable efforts to reunify the family following placement; and / or</li> <li>b. reasonable efforts to secure a new permanent home.</li> </ul>
Specific findings must be in written order or on record	Specific findings must be in written order or on record		Specific findings must be in written order or on record
	<p>There can be factual circumstances such that there exists no safe way to make efforts prior to removal. Thus, a finding by the court that reasonable efforts could not be employed is a finding of reasonable efforts</p>		<p>There can be factual circumstances such that there exists no safe way to make efforts prior to removal. Thus, a finding by the court that reasonable efforts could not be employed is a finding of reasonable efforts.</p>

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